

**State of New Hampshire, NH Office of Energy and Planning
Regional Planning Commissions**

**County Population Projections, By Municipality
Fall 2013**

The attached tables present county level population projections by municipality for the period 2010 through 2040. The projections are done in five-year intervals, and are consistent with the county population projections in the report titled: State of New Hampshire, Regional Planning Commissions, Office of Energy and Planning - County Population Projections, 2013 By Age and Sex.

The method used to develop these municipal level projections starts with the above forecast for total population for each county in New Hampshire. Because these numbers are controlled to the county and state projections, these numbers are considered reasonable in the aggregate as well as at the local level.

Next, the town/city share of county population in the 2010 Census (with the Census revisions) was developed and compared to the 2000 Census share of county population for each town/city in that county.

This analysis revealed that the share of each municipality's population (relative to the county) has been changing over time. To confirm the observed trend, municipal shares of the county population were examined for the Census years 1970, 1980, and 1990. That analysis confirmed the observed trend in changing shares over time.

The methodology used to allocate the county population projections to the municipalities assumes that the 2000 to 2010 shift in share (municipality as a share of the county) will continue into the year 2020. The method attempts to account for a community's share of the county's recent population change, rather than assuming an unchanging share of the county's total population.

Next, that share of the municipality's population relative to the county's population is frozen at the 2020 share level (held constant) through the remaining 20 year projection period (2020 to 2040).

The Office of Energy and Planning, the Regional Planning Commissions and the Projections Committee encourage the use of these projections as a point of departure for users to establish their own projections and/or for evaluating other projection efforts. Users of these projections are cautioned about placing strong confidence in very small projected changes of population. Small changes, up or down, essentially mean that a community is expected to be "stable" for the involved time period. Small changes in population may simply be the result of controlling to county totals or rounding.

Finally, the Office of Energy and Planning wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Robert Scardamalia, the consultant on this project, and the Projections Committee, comprised of the nine Regional Planning Commissions, Dennis Delay from the Center for Public Policy, and Russ Thibeault of Applied Economics Research, for their valued assistance in producing these projections.